

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/DECISION RECORD

US Cellular
R/W Grant Application OR 65431
CE #OR117-08-24

I. PROPOSED ACTION:

United States Cellular Operating Company of Medford (US Cellular) has applied for a right-of-way grant for road access (ingress/egress) over existing Bowhill Road (BLM Road 35-6-14) near Merlin to access a cell tower located on Josephine County land. The right-of-way is approximately 15 feet wide, 1,578 feet long and contains 0.54 acres. If approved, this grant would be authorized for thirty (30) years. The proposed right-of-way is in the Matrix land allocation and is located as follows:

T. 35 S., R. 6 W.
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 14, Willamette Meridian
Josephine County, Oregon.

The authorization would be for ingress and egress only across BLM lands to Josephine County property where their cell tower is located. No maintenance or other activities are authorized.

II. PLAN CONFORMANCE

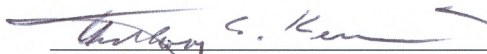
The proposed action is in conformance with the following land use plans and decisions:

- (a) Record of Decision for the Medford District Resource Management Plan (June 1995);
- (b) Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standard and Guidelines for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994);
- (c) Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001);
- (d) Record of Decision to Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Plans within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. (July 2007); and
- (e) Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendment for Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon, Coos Bay, Medford, and Roseburg Districts (May 2004).

III. NEPA REVIEW

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Department Manual 516 DM 11.9, Section E, Realty (12, 16 & 17) as follows:

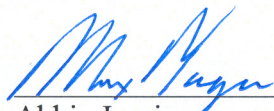
- "Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way." (E-12)
- "Acquisition of easements for an existing road or **issuance of leases, permits or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.**" (E-16)
- "**Grants of short rights-of-ways for utility service** or terminal access roads to an individual residence, outbuilding, or water well." (E-17).

 6/3/08
NEPA Reviewer Date

Leslie Voelkel 05-28-08
Preparer Date

IV. DECISION

I have reviewed this CE, plan conformance, and NEPA compliance review and have determined the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the action as described and approve OR 65431 Right-of-Way Grant to US Cellular for a thirty (30) year term.

 ACTING F.M.
For Abby Jossie
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resources Area

6-3-08
Date

Categorical Exclusion Review

US Cellular R/W Grant Application OR 65431 CE #OR117-08-24

NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

Proposed Action:

Authorization of a right of way over existing roads for the purposes of ingress and egress to a communication site on Josephine County land.

Department of the Interior Manual 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 provides for a review of the following criteria for categorical exclusion to determine if exceptions apply to the proposed action based on actions which may:

1. *Have significant impacts on public health or safety.*

No Remarks: This project is virtually the same as numerous other projects and no such impacts have been identified.

2. *Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resource, park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.*

No Remarks: Access is over an existing road; no effects are anticipated.

3. *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

No Remarks: This is standard use for this type of road.

4. *Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*

No Remarks: Environmental risks are the same as other similar projects.

5. *Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

No Remarks: This project is similar to many other projects and does not set a precedent for future actions.

6. *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

No Remarks: This project authorizes use of an existing road – there are no other connected actions.

7. *Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.*

No Remarks: No impacts are expected as access would occur over an existing road.

8. *Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.*

Plants No

Animals No

Fish No

9. *Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

No Remarks: There is no evidence that this proposal will violate any laws.

10. *Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

No

11. *Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).*

No Remarks: This project places no restrictions on access by others

12. *Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).*

No

Reviewers:

Larry Fairbank 6/3/08
Silviculture, Vegetation Dynamics
& Port-Orford Cedar Date

Robin M Taylor 6/2/2008
Botany Date

Warner 6/2/08
Cultural Resources Date

Jan Rayson 6/2/08
Fisheries Date

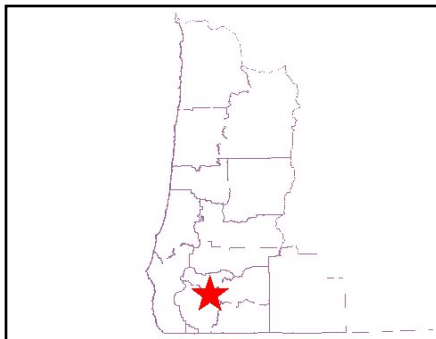
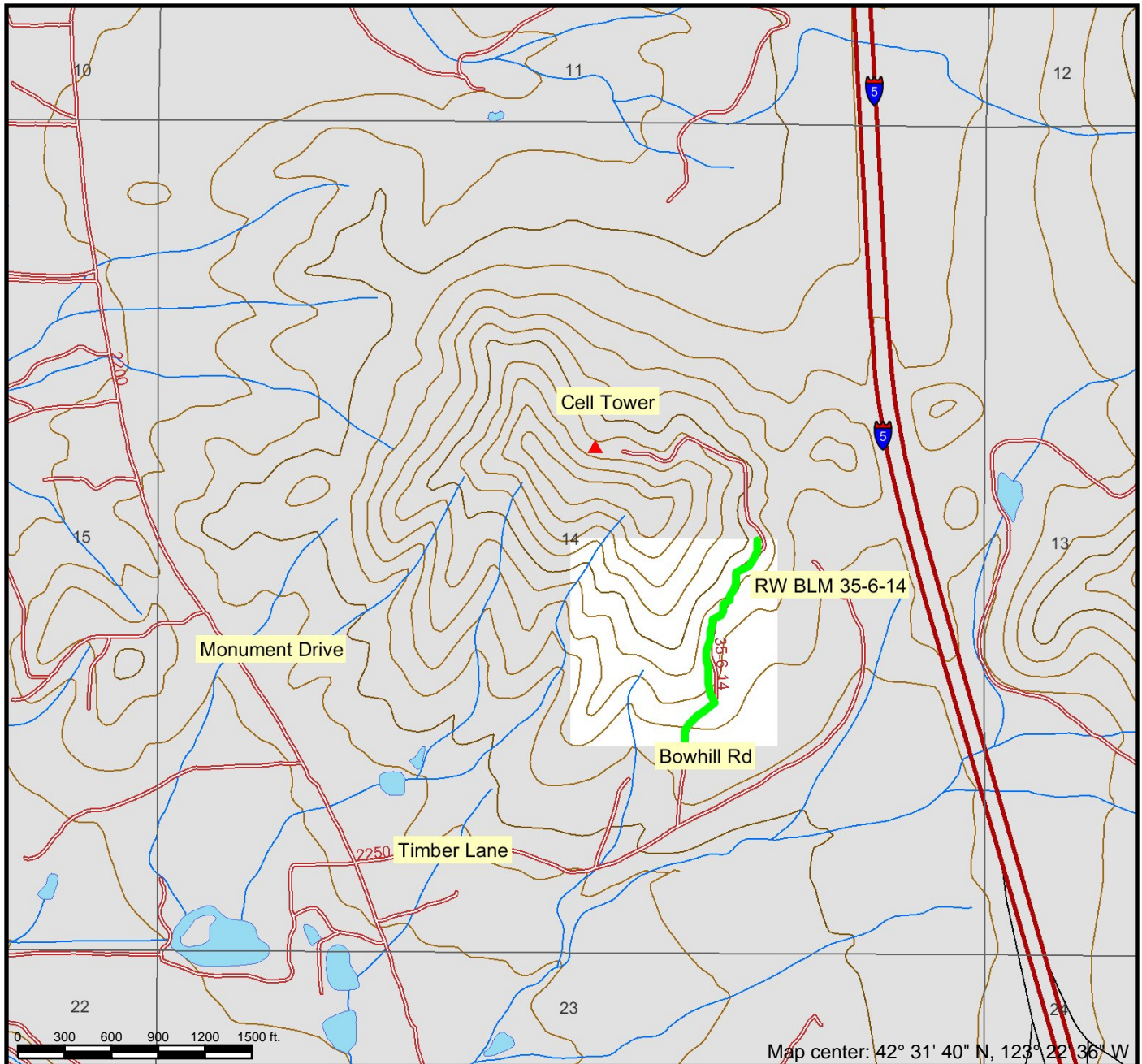
Joe Ray 6/2/08
Wildlife Date

Michael D. Hain 6/2/08
Soils/Hydrology Date

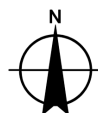
J. M. Ki 6/2/08
Visual Resources / Recreation Date

James R. Roper 6/3/08
Engineering Date

Jim N. Lane 6/2/08
Fire and Fuels Date



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| Forest Operations Inventory | Non BLM | Highways |
| TPCC | Lakes | Roads |
| Township and Range | Streams | Trails |
| Sections | Wetlands | |



Internal Use Only



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504

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http://web.maps.or.blm.gov/foi_section

Scale 1:12,000
Universal Transverse Mercator
Zone 10, North American Datum of 1983